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Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Twenty-seventh session
Vienna, 14–18 May 2018
Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda**
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report contains an outline of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime during 2017. It also contains a set of recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the key activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2017. Section II of the report contains an update on policy developments, new technical cooperation activities and efforts by UNODC to mainstream gender into its activities. Section III focuses on progress made by the Office in the implementation of mandates relating to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem, taking into account the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016. It also contains information on the implementation by the Office of mandates relating to countering transnational organized crime and corruption; preventing terrorism; crime prevention and criminal justice; and research, trend analysis, and scientific and forensic support. Section IV contains an overview of measures taken to strengthen UNODC in the areas of strategic planning, evaluation and fundraising efforts. A set of recommendations are contained in section V for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

II. Strategic orientation

2. The follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 continued during the year under review. UNODC supported the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the follow-up action to the special session, using a comprehensive approach, covering all seven thematic areas contained in the outcome document of the special session, and taking an inclusive approach involving all interested stakeholders. Thematic discussions were held in January and from September to November 2017, and the website on the follow-up to the special session (www.ungass2016.org) is being developed to function as an online repository for concrete information on how the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document are being translated into action. Two workshops on the implementation of those recommendations were held by UNODC, in La Paz on 29 and 30 May, and in Port of Spain on 24 and 25 October. Furthermore, in 2017, the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission considered cross-cutting issues, in accordance with the outcome document (see E/CN.7/2018/9).

3. With the financial support of Qatar, UNODC launched a global programme aimed at assisting countries in implementing several aspects of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted in 2015 by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The global programme focuses on strengthening judicial integrity, fostering prisoner rehabilitation and social integration, preventing youth crime through sports and encouraging a culture of the rule of law in schools and universities through the initiative entitled "Education for justice".

4. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly approved the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Fourteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. At its twenty-seventh session, to be held in May 2018, the Commission will review the draft discussion guide, which is a key resource document for the Fourteenth Congress and for the regional preparatory meetings to be held in the first half of 2019.

5. UNODC strengthened its efforts to align its strategic and programme documents with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by including links to targets of the 2030 Agenda in its new and revised programmes. UNODC is the custodian for

global-level reporting on 15 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, in some instances jointly with other entities. The Office also assists States in building their capacity to track progress on indicators, and to report on security, justice and the rule of law, as reflected under Goal 16. Within their mandates, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have contributed to the global follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and support the thematic review of progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. UNODC assisted States in improving sustainable development outcomes through the implementation of whole-of-government approaches for combating economic crime and the financing of terrorism, while improving inclusion and transparency.

7. UNODC strengthened efforts to establish a culture of results-based reporting and management that helps clarify linkages between its work and the 2030 Agenda. The Office continued to follow discussions on the implementation of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, providing inputs on country-level reform to the United Nations Development Group, on the reform of the Resident Coordinator System and the creation of administrative systems capable of supporting normative and operational assistance.

8. In November 2017, the Government of Colombia and UNODC signed a historic agreement to promote and support peace consolidation in Colombia through alternative development and the implementation and monitoring of its public policy and territorial development strategy for illicit crop reduction. Through the four-year project, UNODC will provide the Government with technical assistance valued at $316 million for the implementation of the national policy and strategy on territorial and rural development, integrated monitoring of illicit crops and support for the voluntary substitution of such crops, which includes support for legal income generation through productive projects and access to land.

9. A new integrated regional programme for South Asia (2018–2021) is being finalized in close partnership with key counterparts in the region. The new regional programme, to be launched in the first quarter of 2018, is fully aligned with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session (General Assembly resolution S-30/1) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. The implementation of a new country programme for Indonesia (2017–2020), developed in cooperation with the Government, 19 ministries and relevant civil society organizations, began in early 2017. The programme was designed to be in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

11. The Security Council, in its resolution 2344 (2017), once again recognized the Paris Pact initiative as being one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan and part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond. UNODC continued to support the partnership's efforts for enhanced cooperation under the four thematic pillars outlined in the Vienna Declaration: (a) strengthening and implementing regional initiatives; (b) detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; (c) preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in illicit opiates manufacturing in Afghanistan; and (d) reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach.

12. In May 2017, UNODC established a global programme on gender equality and the empowerment of women in UNODC and the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV). The main objective is to put in place an institutional framework to help UNODC to promote and achieve gender equality in a coordinated and comprehensive way, addressing gender parity among staff, as well as gender mainstreaming in all organizational practices, policies and programmes. Within the framework of the global programme, the Office developed the Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2018–2021), which will enable the Office to comply with the United Nations

System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The Gender Equality Strategy was endorsed by the Executive Committee of UNOV and UNODC and approved by the Director-General/Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC on 20 December 2017.

III. Progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing its mandates

A. Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

1. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

(a) Prevention, treatment and reintegration

13. UNODC, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, continued to support States in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on strengthening prevention and treatment, while contributing to the achievement of Goal 5, on gender equality; target 16.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on reducing all forms of violence; and target 16.2, on ending all forms of violence against children.

14. In over 20 countries, UNODC continued its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people to the use of psychoactive substances and other risky behaviours. The Office initiated the update of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* and, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and WHO, published a guide on education sector responses to substance abuse issues. The Youth Initiative continued its efforts to mobilize young people, which included holding a Youth Forum meeting during the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and organizing campaigns on social media and other activities. The activities of the Initiative are financially supported by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan.

15. UNODC and WHO initiated the testing of their *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* and continued to build the capacity of providers, including on the treatment of pregnant women with drug use disorders. In over 20 countries, UNODC and WHO also continued to develop innovative services, including overdose prevention in four countries and services for children in five countries. In addition, UNODC supported the participation of the informal scientific network in the sixtieth session of the Commission and the holding of technical consultations to develop a range of tools, including in the context of the Paris Pact initiative.

(b) HIV prevention, treatment and care

16. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/8 and the recommendations on HIV/AIDS contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, and in alignment with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 2016-2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to end AIDS, aimed at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, UNODC promoted human rights-based, public health-focused and gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and people in prisons.

17. Together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNODC supported States by organizing three workshops in the Middle East and North Africa on health in detention. UNODC continued implementing its programme on HIV/AIDS in prison settings in 10 countries in Southern Africa. To date, the programme has built the capacity of over 30,000 policymakers and over 33,000 prisoners, prison staff and health professionals.

18. Jointly with members of civil society, UNODC trained over 230 service providers in improving access to HIV services for people who inject drugs, in Belarus, Egypt, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, and in addressing the specific needs of women who inject drugs, in Egypt, Indonesia, Nepal and Viet Nam.

19. UNODC strengthened partnerships between the law enforcement and health sectors and produced an e-learning tool for law enforcement officials. The Office also trained over 250 law enforcement officers, 100 members of civil society and community-based organizations, and 120 parliamentarians and representatives of the health, education and social sectors in Afghanistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

20. UNODC produced a training module on gender mainstreaming and the monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who use drugs, and provided technical assistance in monitoring and evaluation of HIV services in prisons, in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Viet Nam.

2. Availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

21. UNODC continued to promote a comprehensive and coordinated response to improving access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing diversion, misuse and abuse, and provides support to States in achieving targets 3.b and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on access to medicines and services. The four areas of the joint global programme of UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) are: (a) increasing global awareness; (b) providing technical support; (c) facilitating normative policy and guidelines at the national level; and (d) promoting a more accurate data collection. In 2017, UNODC provided support to Ghana and Timor-Leste, and its work in Nigeria resulted in the development of a national policy and guidelines for the health sector on the management of pain. With the support of UNODC, a pilot project focusing on access to controlled substances, including morphine for palliative care, was started in Mexico. In Antigua and Barbuda and Panama, support focused on institutionalizing data collection and research.

22. The complexity of the issues necessitates the inclusion of many global and national stakeholders, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, Human Rights Watch and the Pain and Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin (United States of America). Partners provided contributions for a special event held during the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, ongoing meetings leading up to the sixty-first session of the Commission, and an expert group meeting held in September 2017. During the meeting, experts identified concrete suggestions for the implementation of a range of commitments recently made by Member States, including in Commission resolutions 53/4 and 54/6, the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and World Health Assembly resolution 67.19.

3. Supply reduction and related measures: effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

23. UNODC promoted criminal intelligence-led policing, the use of special investigative techniques and cross-border cooperation, targeting all forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking, and the resulting illicit financial flows.

24. The "networking the networks" approach continued to facilitate cooperation among existing international and regional law enforcement centres and organizations. In addition, networking among law enforcement training institutions under the Law

Enforcement TrainNet initiative provided a basis for the exchange of training curriculums, materials, tools, methodologies, best practices and trainers.

25. The partnership of UNODC with the World Customs Organization in the Container Control Programme supported States in improving trade supply security and strengthening border controls and yielded significant results for the 43 participating States. The national inter-agency targeting units, established through the Programme, intercepted over 200 tons of cocaine, 5 tons of heroin, 76 tons of cannabis and 1,535 tons of precursor chemicals. The Programme has expanded to a further 11 ports and is in the process of concluding a memorandum of understanding with the International Civil Aviation Organization. Operational activities focusing on the air cargo trade supply chain commenced in seven countries.

26. Through its Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime, UNODC strengthened judicial cooperation by convening a joint meeting for the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, held in Senegal; the first meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, held in Sudan; and a training session for the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus.

27. Through CRIMJUST, its criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation initiative targeting trafficking and related offences, UNODC continued to build capacity among criminal justice agencies along the cocaine trafficking route from Latin America and the Caribbean to West Africa.

4. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

28. From 11 to 13 October 2017, UNODC organized an expert consultation on alternatives to conviction or punishment in the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system. The event was aimed at reviewing the draft handbook developed on the topic by UNODC and WHO, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/5.

29. UNODC continued to support the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in discussions on the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly; alternatives to imprisonment; and approaches to preventing drug use in children and young people, as well as treatment options and ways of addressing their involvement in drug-related crime.

30. In Panama, a UNODC study showed that men constituted 85 per cent of persons deprived of their liberty for drug-related offences (including drug consumption, possession and international drug trafficking). However, the study also revealed that women imprisoned for such offences constituted 70 per cent of the female prison population, and that their involvement in such offences was mostly the result of poverty, addiction or coercion.

31. To promote compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), UNODC developed a checklist for internal inspection mechanisms, which dedicates attention to ensuring continuity of treatment and care upon release for drug dependence and other disorders.

32. As part of the UNODC global programme on violence against children, UNODC is providing for prevention and treatment of substance abuse for children in conflict with the law.[1]

[1] Additional achievements of UNODC with regard to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services for girls and women, as well as in assuring the quality of treatment services, are highlighted in section III A 1, above.

5. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threads, including new psychoactive substances

33. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/4 on preventing and responding to the adverse health consequences and risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances, UNODC continued to collaborate with international, regional organizations and academia in sharing experiences and best practices in preventing and addressing the adverse health consequences and risks associated with new psychoactive substances. The activities implemented in 2017 include the first regional meeting on new psychoactive substances in the Western Hemisphere, held in Bogota on 1 and 2 February; the international conference on precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances jointly convened by the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 February; the Fifth International Conference on novel psychoactive substances in Vienna and the UNODC-WHO Annual Expert Consultation on new psychoactive substances in Vienna. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances was expanded to incorporate toxicological data, a first step to achieving the recommendation contained in the outcome document on prioritizing the most harmful, persistent and prevalent new psychoactive substances for international action.

34. The triennial global synthetic drugs assessment, launched in October 2017, provided regional and global overviews and context-specific dynamics relating to the demand and supply of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The Global SMART Update series continued to increase knowledge on emerging threats such as the opioid crisis and the related abuse of new psychoactive substances, including benzodiazepines.

35. To improve national capacity in the identification of new psychoactive substances and identification of drugs, UNODC conducted regional and in-house training for countries in Central and East Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

36. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1, UNODC started to reflect on ways of improving drug statistics, including on the annual report questionnaire, and to discuss activities to support countries in producing such data. In preparation for the expert consultation in early 2018, UNODC conducted a technical assessment of drug-related data collections and sought input from Member States through a questionnaire.

6. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

37. UNODC promotes cooperation and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned to fight drug trafficking through regional initiatives such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa. UNODC contributes to the achievement of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the Sustainable Development Goals by supporting the development of national legislation and drug control master plans; by providing technical support to the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use; and through the implementation of evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and care activities.

38. UNODC prioritized work on illicit financial flows and alternative development in order to respond to the dramatic increase in opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan. UNODC continued to support the establishment of a regional network of anti-money-laundering and asset recovery experts. UNODC contributed to the three pillars — countering terrorism, countering serious crime and improving border security — within the framework of the Integrative Internal Security Governance, implemented in the Western Balkans and supported by the European Union.

39. UNODC continued to facilitate operational coordination and the exchange of experiences among States. Through the project PREDEM, focusing on drug demand reduction in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, UNODC supported the strengthening of national commissions on drugs, the formulation of demand reduction measures based on scientific evidence and the exchange of good practices through subregional activities, such as the Andean forum on prevention and treatment. UNODC also supported information exchange on drugs and precursors and the work of specialized coordination bodies, including the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America against Money-Laundering.

40. UNODC works closely with a number of regional and interregional entities, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Under the wider framework of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, UNODC provides support in countering trafficking in wildlife and timber, the smuggling of migrants, drug use prevention efforts and legal reform. Through the regional programme for South-East Asia for 2014–2019, UNODC ensures, inter alia, effective support for the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding mechanism, which brings together six countries in East and South-East Asia to contain the threat of illicit drug production, trafficking and use.

7. Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

41. UNODC works closely with States to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, in line with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. Following the first expert group meeting on alternative development in Bangkok in 2016, Member State representatives, practitioners and civil society came together for a second meeting, held in Berlin from 11 to 13 September 2017. The objective was to discuss how best to work collectively to implement the outcome document, mainstream environmental issues into alternative development, review the applicability of transferring lessons learned from alternative development to urban contexts and ensure implementation of efforts aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Technical assistance provided by UNODC to Afghanistan, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru continued to focus on improving the socioeconomic situation of rural farming communities and sustainably reducing illicit crop cultivation. The UNODC programme in Shan State, Myanmar, completed its first coffee harvest of high-quality beans and is in the process of securing a fixed long-term market in Europe based on fair trade practice and pricing. In Colombia, the UNODC programme was recognized as a vital component in the implementation for a sustainable peace process.

B. Effectively addressing crime

1. Countering transnational organized crime

(a) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

42. UNODC continued to assist States in ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the

review mechanism were held in Vienna from 24 to 26 April and from 30 October to 1 November 2017.

43. In 2017, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held meetings. Each Working Group discussed the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the respective protocol to the Convention. Furthermore, the Working Group on International Cooperation and the Working Group on Technical Assistance held back-to-back meetings with a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of the implementation of the Convention. The finalization of the redeveloped Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool was announced during those meetings.

44. In 2017, two additional States became parties to the Convention, bringing the number of parties to 189. Two additional States became parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention, bringing the number of parties to 172. In addition, four additional States became parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol by Land, Sea and Air, bringing the number of parties to 146; and one additional State became party to the Firearms Protocol (115 parties).

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

45. Innovative technical assistance by UNODC included: (a) a regional expert meeting addressing financial profits from migrant smuggling, held in Montenegro in April 2017; (b) a regional training workshop to promote judicial cooperation against migrant smuggling by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea, held in Malta from 9 to 11 May 2017; and (c) a multidisciplinary workshop to combat and prevent trafficking in persons for organ removal held in August 2017. In addition, UNODC continued working in preventing migrant smuggling through the #DeadlyBusiness campaign, which was adopted by Governments in Central and North America, and Spain. A new version of the Blue Heart campaign was launched in Mexico.

46. UNODC supported the Security Council in its emerging work on responses to trafficking related to conflict, including by producing a thematic paper on countering trafficking in persons in conflict situations. The Office also published an issue paper on the concept of financial or other material benefit in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and launched the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal.

47. UNODC continued to play a leading role within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Migration Group. The Office actively supported the fifth thematic session of the Group, held in Vienna in September 2017 as part of the General Assembly process on the development of a United Nations global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. During the same month, the Assembly successfully completed its second appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

(c) Trafficking in firearms

48. Through its Global Firearms Programme, UNODC provided assistance to countries in the Balkans, Latin America and the Maghreb and Sahel regions on preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. Initiatives included harmonizing national firearms legislation, supporting technical firearms management (e.g., marking, record-keeping, collection and disposal) and building capacity in investigating and prosecuting firearms trafficking, operations in collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the European Police Office (Europol) and promoting information exchange among practitioners. UNODC also launched a new data collection effort on seized firearms that improved monitoring and directly supported the achievement of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows by 2030.

(d) Money-laundering

49. In the framework of its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC assisted countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East through the provision of in-country technical assistance. Mentoring programme assistance was provided to authorities and individuals in the private sector, and training sessions were delivered on the confiscation of the proceeds of wildlife crime, financial investigations, cryptocurrencies, the fight against cash smuggling, terrorist financing and methodologies to disrupt illicit financial flows. UNODC promoted national, regional and international coordination to combat illicit financial flows and contributed to the implementation of target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(e) Other related organized crime issues

50. The third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017.

51. UNODC provided capacity-building assistance to counter cybercrime in countries in Central America, the Middle East, North Africa and Central and South-East Asia. Operational results, as a direct impact of UNODC training, included the conviction of a predatory paedophile who had sexually abused over 80 young children in several countries.

52. UNODC continued to support Member States in developing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property. UNODC participated in coordination network meetings on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2347 (2017), and in a high-level meeting on protecting cultural heritage from terrorism and mass atrocities, held on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. In line with paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), UNODC supported the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, in the preparation of a report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution.

53. UNODC continued its policy work on wildlife, forest and fisheries crime and provided technical assistance to over 30 requesting States. Rapid reference guides were developed for Botswana, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with a view to building law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial capacity. Law enforcement and criminal justice professionals were trained in basic and specialized investigation techniques, such as intelligence-gathering, countering corruption, crime scene management and prosecution. Activities were launched in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania based on the recommendations contained in the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. UNODC hosted the third International Symposium on Fisheries Crime, which was held in Vienna on 25 and 26 September 2017 and attended by participants from 57 countries.

2. Countering corruption

54. At its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted eight resolutions, addressing asset recovery, corruption involving vast quantities of assets, technical assistance, synergies between multilateral organizations responsible for anti-corruption review mechanisms, the prevention of corruption, the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States and corruption in sport. The Conference also adoption one decision, on the work of its subsidiary bodies. The Conference was attended by approximately 1,800 participants from 158 States parties and a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

55. The Implementation Review Group held its regular eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its eighth meeting in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held its eleventh meeting in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017, and the sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2017.

56. Progress was made under the first and second cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with 181 States involved in the review process. Of the more than 160 States that have been reviewed under the first cycle, many have shared information on how the Implementation Review Mechanism catalysed domestic reforms and enhanced inter-institutional cooperation. A total of 87 per cent of the States reviewed indicated that they had adopted new laws to strengthen their anti-corruption legislative frameworks.

57. UNODC continued to provide tailored technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, including the preparation for country reviews and the implementation of observations made during those reviews.

58. From January 2016 to June 2017, UNODC implemented over 480 activities at the national, regional and global levels, including direct country-level support to over 83 countries. Approximately 6,000 anti-corruption practitioners benefited from such assistance. Through the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Bank, a total of 24 countries received direct technical assistance in 2016 to implement chapter V of the Convention, and various regional asset recovery networks were supported.

59. The StAR Initiative also organized the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, held in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 6 December 2017, as a follow-up to the Anti-Corruption Summit organized by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held in London in 2016.

60. In 2017, UNODC published the *Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prison* and a joint study with the International Olympic Committee entitled *Model Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation*. UNODC is producing numerous educational materials and tools under the Education for Justice initiative and the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and is supporting the development of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, which is to be launched in April 2018.

61. UNODC continued to raise awareness about the importance of implementing the Convention in a variety of regional and international forums, including as an observer during the meetings of the Group of Twenty (G-20) Anti-Corruption Working Group, which were hosted by UNODC for the first time, in Vienna on 12 and 13 September 2017.

3. Preventing terrorism

62. Through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, UNODC delivered over 90 activities and trained 2,200 criminal justice officials in 2017.

63. The Office continued to promote the international legal instruments related to terrorism, in particular those related to the suppression of nuclear terrorism and unlawful acts against civil aviation, which have a low number of ratifications.

64. UNODC efficiently assisted Member States in updating their national counter-terrorism legislation, including Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen.

65. In early 2017, the Office continued promoting the role of parliamentarians in terrorism prevention, including through a major initiative, together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism.

66. In 2017, donor support enabled UNODC to expand the geographical and thematic coverage of its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism. Assistance covered countries in the Middle East and North Africa; South and South-East Asia; the Pacific; Central Asia; West and Central Africa, including the Sahel; Nigeria; the Horn of Africa; Central America; and South-Eastern Europe. UNODC continued to provide crucial support to Iraq, in particular for restoring the rule of law in the liberated territories. In Asia, the Office launched programmes, including for improving border management, in partnership with INTERPOL. The delivery of an in-depth programme for Nigeria progressed well and included the development of a prosecution and reintegration strategy for persons associated with Boko Haram. In Central Asia, UNODC furthered the creation of a regional network to prevent terrorism and violent extremism. In the Sahel region, a multi-agency effort was undertaken to build the capacity of supreme courts against terrorism.

67. Based on the State requests, the top priority areas for capacity-building were as follows: criminal justice aspects of addressing the threat posed by returning, reallocating and travelling foreign terrorist fighters; improvised explosive devices; attacks on critical infrastructure; and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and incitement. The Office significantly expanded assistance in the following areas: the use of special investigation techniques, the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons, children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups, and gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism. UNODC successfully supported several States in establishing specialized counter-terrorism units, including Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria.

68. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), the Office redoubled its efforts to promote international cooperation in terrorism-related matters. Within the framework of its Foreign Terrorist Fighters Initiative, UNODC launched a major effort in the Middle East and North Africa to establish multi-agency task forces for judicial cooperation in cases involving foreign terrorist fighters.

69. The Office developed a series of new tools, including a module on the universal legal framework against terrorism, handbooks on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, for Kenya, and on foreign terrorist fighters, for South-Eastern Europe.

70. UNODC enjoyed partnerships and helped to strengthen coordination and coherence with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, especially with the new Office of Counter-Terrorism. UNODC continued to chair two working groups of the Task Force: one on countering the financing of terrorism, with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the other on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism, with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

4. Crime prevention and criminal justice

71. In the Sahel region, UNODC facilitated the development of risk evaluation tools for prison administration in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, following the recommendations from prison security audits conducted in 2016. The tools are aimed at better assessing the needs and security risk posed by violent extremist prisoners. In Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon, UNODC delivered technical assistance on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization in prisons. The Office also serviced a working group of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the application of the Nelson Mandela Rules, targeting over 50 officials from the region, held in April in Abu Dhabi. In July, UNODC presented the checklist of the Nelson Mandela Rules to prison officials from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama

and Paraguay, and promoted the establishment of effective internal prison inspection mechanisms in Argentina.

72. To promote gender-sensitive criminal justice systems, in September, UNODC organized a workshop in Panama City on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Central America, attended by prison officials from Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama, and civil society organizations from Guatemala. Together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund and WHO, in June, UNODC brought together over 100 participants from the health, social, police and justice sectors of 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific at a regional meeting in Bangkok on coordinated multisectoral services to respond to gender-based violence. The Office also organized a training-of-trainers course on effective responses to violence against women for police officers, prosecutors and social workers in Namibia.

73. To promote community-based crime prevention, UNODC completed an evidence-informed life skills training curriculum for sport settings to address risk factors related to youth crime, which was rolled out in Brazil, South Africa and Kyrgyzstan, with training-of-trainers sessions provided to over 100 sport coaches. In cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Government of Canada, the Office organized an expert meeting in New York in May and June on urban crime, governance and sustainable development, which resulted in recommendations on crime prevention at the local level for the development of the United Nations Guidelines on safer cities.

74. With regard to juvenile justice, UNODC trained 145 justice and child protection professionals, including lawyers, on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups. The Office also provided legal advisory services to the Governments of Cabo Verde and Colombia and undertook an in-depth assessment of juvenile justice in Jamaica. In Colombia, UNODC strengthened the capacity of 133 justice and child protection professionals on restorative justice for children.

75. UNODC continued its technical assistance on maritime crime legal reforms by supporting prosecutions for piracy, capacity-building in maritime law enforcement and strengthening the criminal justice response to maritime crime in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, by embedding legal and maritime law enforcement advisors and facilitating cooperation among coastal States.

76. The Office developed various technical assistance tools, including the UNODC-Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights *Resource Book on Use of Force and Firearms in Law Enforcement*; the *Resource Book for Trainers on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls*; the *Model Law on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems with Commentaries*; and *Line Up Live Up: Trainer Manual on Life Skills Training Through Sport to Prevent Crime, Violence and Drug Use*.

C. Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support

1. Data collection, research and trend analysis

77. The *World Drug Report 2017* contains an overview of the situation on drug demand and supply and addresses trends in the markets of opiates, cocaine, cannabis and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances. It also contains an analysis of the nexus between the world drug problem and transnational organized crime, corruption, illicit financial flows and terrorism.

78. The Office supported drug use surveys in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan and Tajikistan and provided training on drug monitoring systems and drug research.

79. UNODC supported illicit crop cultivation surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar and Peru. UNODC conducted research on factors contributing to illicit cultivation and undertook an assessment of alternative development programmes. The Office also finalized a study on the trafficking of Afghan opiates along the northern route.

80. UNODC carried out global data collection on trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. UNODC published, jointly with the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, an estimate of the number of victims of trafficking in the Netherlands. The first UNODC global study on the smuggling of migrants is to be published in early 2018.

81. UNODC provided available data and analyses on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators under its responsibility and undertook capacity-building activities related to those indicators in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. Methodological work in various areas related to the Sustainable Development Goals was undertaken by developing a manual on the measurement of corruption through surveys and a manual for the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. UNODC also completed a thorough review of the annual crime trends survey.

2. Scientific and forensic support

82. UNODC continued to enhance the effectiveness of national laboratories through the setting of standards in the laboratory analysis of drugs. Efforts to that end included the publication of *Recommended Methods for the Identification and Analysis of Fentanyl and its Analogues in Biological Specimens*, in response to the current opioid crisis.

83. UNODC continued to support the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs through regular updates of the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control* and the publication entitled *Clandestine Manufacture of Substances under International Control*. The Office also contributed to key research and drug policy discussions and the development and implementation of regional and country programmes, including those for West Africa, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, Central Asia and the Cocaine Route Programme of the European Union.

84. Through its international quality assurance programme, UNODC assisted 232 national laboratories in 75 countries, including by providing 903 samples of chemical reference standards to laboratories in 55 countries. The Office also provided support to law enforcement agencies on enhancing their capacity to detect and identify drugs and precursors, including through the provision of 1,136 field testing kits to 12 countries and through contributions to a number of regional training initiatives.

85. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continued to monitor and share information on synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances, and to strengthen the capacity of States to respond to the risks and challenges posed by such substances. In 2017, activities covered countries in Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central, East, South and South-East Asia.

IV. Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A. Strategic planning

86. UNODC strengthened its efforts to generate new and innovative approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda, in line with its mandates, by conducting training workshops for UNODC field offices, in order to ensure alignment with country-led

efforts to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and to report against the global indicators of the Goals that are relevant to the Office's mandate. UNODC launched several new integrated programmes linked to the 2030 Agenda.

87. UNODC strengthened informal links with partner agencies through the United Nations Strategic Planning Network, with a view to replicating and adapting good practices on results-based management, programme development, planning, monitoring and reporting.

B. Evaluation

88. The Independent Evaluation Unit evaluates the portfolio of UNODC according to norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group, with a focus on gender and human rights, and cooperates with oversight functions to ensure efficiencies. Although a professional peer review of the evaluation function, conducted in 2016, reflected impressive progress since 2010, recommendations showed that further investments were crucial to strengthening evaluation and accountability at UNODC.

89. Two strategic evaluations were managed and published on the UNODC website and two are currently ongoing. Evaluation recommendations were presented to the Executive Director, members of senior management and Member States, thereby contributing to a culture of accountability and learning. The Unit is further backstopping 26 project evaluations.

90. The Unit conducted a high-profile meta-analysis and engaged an external company for a quality control of all evaluations of 2017, also extracting best practices in how UNODC builds capacity in the field. Furthermore, the Unit finalized a second evaluation handbook and fully revised its evaluation tools. The Unit also engaged in supporting Member States in strengthening national evaluation capacity in line with General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda.

C. Finance and partnerships

91. UNODC continued supporting the meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC by providing information on progress made by the Office in the implementation and evaluation of its global and regional programmes, geographical and gender representation in the composition of UNODC staff, gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes, and on financial and budgetary matters.

92. The Office continued to work toward the conclusion of new memorandums of understanding with key partners and to implement existing partnership arrangements, with a view to reducing overlaps and complementing efforts in relevant areas. Notable efforts included cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), INTERPOL, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency. A closer partnership with WHO on drug-related issues has been developed and UNODC took the lead in the United Nations Secretariat-wide follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, including in the implementation of the relevant decisions taken by an Executive Committee meeting convened by the Secretary-General in April. UNODC also deepened its engagement on issues of strategic importance, such as cybercrime and urban safety governance, with the United Nations system as a whole.

93. In partnership with UN-Habitat, the Office coordinated a meeting of experts on urban safety and good governance to help implement the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III. Together with the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO and UNHCR, UNODC is a facilitator of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.

94. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The decline in unearmarked funds persists, with the general-purpose income predicted to reach less than 1.2 per cent of total income in 2017. Low levels of unearmarked or soft-earmarked funding represent a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on the management, coordination and normative functions.

95. The programme delivery of UNODC is expected to grow from $512.6 million in the biennium 2016–2017 to $672.4 million in the biennium 2018–2019, representing a 31.2 per cent increase. The growth in programme delivery started in 2017 under various programmes, including the expansion of alternative livelihood programmes in Colombia; implementation of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation; alternative development in Afghanistan; and counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan.

96. In 2018, UNODC will continue the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution, including the Organization's enterprise resource planning system, Umoja; International Public Sector Accounting Standards; and the enterprise risk management initiative. For Umoja, UNODC is taking a lead role in the development of the Umoja Extension 2 (UE2) release, in an effort to ensure that its scope and design meet the programmatic needs of the Office. UNODC is also actively taking part in discussions on the management reform led by the Secretary-General.

97. UNODC continued a strategic cooperation and policy-based dialogue with several donors to increase funding to UNODC and to provide support for the core functions including the fourth strategic dialogue with Japan. Visits to donor capitals were undertaken to promote partnerships, followed by regular updates. Fundraising outreach to new emerging donors is ongoing in order to strengthen dialogue and partnership opportunities. UNODC will focus on the engagement of Member States in building support towards existing issues and recognizing emerging ones.

98. In India, UNODC signed its first cooperation agreement with the private sector, namely the Max India Foundation, which provides quality health care to the underprivileged in the State of Punjab. In Colombia, UNODC and Siemens collaborated to promote standards on integrity, trust-building and coordinated actions among the public and private sector entities to reinforce the implementation of the national law on transnational bribery.

99. The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, partnered with the crowdfunding platform Charidy to launch the first Annual Giving Day for Victims of Human Trafficking on 30 July 2017. Small contributions totalling more than $50,000 were collected from individuals through the platform.

V. Recommendations

100. The Commissions may wish to provide further guidance, in the context of their respective mandates and consider requesting Member States to implement the recommendations below.

Effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem

101. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To continue to implement the commitments made by the international community to address and counter the world drug problem, in a balanced manner, including the implementation of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly and the sharing of best practices in an inclusive, transparent

and comprehensive manner, with equal attention paid to the seven thematic areas and benefiting from the expertise of all relevant stakeholders;

(b) To support the work of UNODC to strengthen comprehensive and scientific evidence-based drug demand reduction, including in the areas of prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/8;

(c) To fast-track HIV/AIDS responses among people who use drugs and people in prisons as part of reaching target 3.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030) by: (i) including the interventions contained in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*[2] in national HIV and drug strategies and scaling up their implementation with the involvement of drug control and law enforcement agencies, ministries of justice, interior and health and civil society and community-based organizations; and (ii) integrating the interventions outlined in the policy brief developed by UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme on HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings[3] into national plans and programmes addressing criminal justice, drug use, AIDS and tuberculosis and allocating resources for their implementation and scaling-up;

(d) To continue to support national and international mechanisms that increase access to and ensure availability of controlled medicines within national control systems as well as to take measures to expand the provision of quality health-care services that include the safe and rational use of essential controlled medicines for patients under medical care, in line with the provisions of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as targets 3.8 and 3.b of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) To continue to address the stark disparity of access to controlled drugs for medical purposes globally, while preventing their diversion and abuse, including by providing support to the work of UNODC in promoting a comprehensive and coordinated response;

(f) To support the efforts of UNODC to monitor the emergence of new psychoactive substances at the global level through its early warning advisory, and to identify the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances in order to assist in the prioritization of substances for international control;

(g) To review strategies and approaches in assisting States to implement recommendations on alternative development of the outcome document, and to ensure that the design and implementation of field-based interventions adhere to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Countering transnational organized crime

102. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating organized crime by making full use of the Organized Crime Convention as a legal basis in that regard;

(b) To utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC, with a view to strengthening their criminal justice responses to forms of crime, such as cybercrime, including the criminal use of cryptocurrency, trafficking in falsified medical products, wildlife and forest crime and trafficking in cultural property;

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[2] 2nd ed. (Geneva, WHO, 2012)

[3] "HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings: a comprehensive package of interventions", Policy Brief (Vienna, UNODC, 2013)

(c) To update and verify their records in the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and the directory of competent national authorities;

(d) To support the interregional initiatives of UNODC, including the Airport Communication Project, the Container Control Programme and the global programme on strengthening of criminal investigation and criminal justice along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST);

(e) To ensure that their national strategies to combat organized crime include active countermeasures against money-laundering, such as timely inter-agency cooperation, information-sharing, money-laundering typologies and the identification and location of assets and property;

(f) To respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to shaping policies and interventions, such as through reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing;

(g) To develop coordinated border management strategies and strengthen the capacity of border control, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prevent, monitor and counter trafficking in firearms, their parts and ammunition;

(h) To call on UNODC to continue its work to support stronger responses by United Nations entities, States and other actors to conflict-related trafficking in persons, in follow-up to Security Council resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017);

(i) To continue fully utilizing the *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and to implement the recommendations contained in its findings.

Countering corruption

103. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To support UNODC in the implementation of the mandates provided by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session;

(b) To continue to support the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention against Corruption and to contribute to the implementation of its second cycle, which was launched at the sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties;

(c) To continue to support the work of UNODC, both at headquarters and in the field, to assist States in preventing and combating corruption.

Terrorism prevention

104. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider encouraging Member States:

(a) To promote the ratification and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and other legal instruments, strengthen national legislation and international judicial cooperation, and enhance their criminal justice capacity to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

(b) To encourage Member States to continue to support the implementation of the UNODC terrorism prevention programme, including through utilizing technical assistance provided by UNODC and providing sustainable support, in the light of the evolving terrorist threat.

Research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support

105. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of national authorities to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data on crime and illicit drug production, trafficking and use, with a view to increasing their capacity to respond to data-collection tools such as the crime trends survey, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, and the annual report questionnaire and individual drug seizure reports;

(b) To further support the work of UNODC to strengthen national data-collection capacity to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the fields of drug use and its health consequences, alternative development, rule of law and access to justice, and combating organized crime, violence, trafficking in persons, wildlife trafficking, corruption and illicit financial flows;

(c) To support the evidence-led approaches to enhance safety and good governance at the city level in line with the New Urban Agenda;

(d) To further support UNODC in its work to strengthen the analytical work of laboratories by providing reference materials, including on new psychoactive substances, identifying best practices and developing relevant guidelines and research to ensure high quality standards in laboratory work and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and data to enable a timely response to emerging issues.

Strengthening the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

106. The Commissions may wish to consider requesting Member States:

(a) To support the implementation of recommendations of oversight functions, including the 2016 professional peer review, to ensure a strengthened evaluation function, a culture of evaluation and accountability at UNODC;

(b) To engage in building national evaluation capacity and accountability within the mandated areas of UNODC, in line with General Assembly resolution 69/237 and the 2030 Agenda;

(c) To support the efforts of UNODC to build the capacity of staff at all levels to respond holistically to Member State requests to address specific hurdles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) To support the development of administrative systems, such as the Umoja Extension 2 (UE2) release, that are fit for purpose in delivering technical cooperation and normative support services in an effective and efficient manner;

(e) To provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner;

(f) To provide greater general-purpose (unearmarked) and soft-earmarked funding to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation in close coordination with partner countries and regional bodies.

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda**
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions: work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2017/236, in which the Council renewed the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime until the part of the sessions of the Commissions to be held in the first half of 2021, as well as Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/13, 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 18/3, 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1. The present note covers the work of the working group between 19 October 2017 and 22 January 2018. Information on the work of the working group during the preceding period can be found in document E/CN.7/2017/3/Add.2-E/CN.15/2017/15/Add.2.

* E/CN.7/2018/1.
** E/CN.15/2018/1.

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I. Deliberations

1. From 19 October 2017 to 22 January 2018, the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held three informal meetings and a formal meeting.

2. The working group continued to consider issues under the items of the agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2017/236 and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 52/13 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 18/3 and in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to those resolutions, as well as with provisions contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11, 58/1 and 60/3 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2, 24/1 and 26/1.

3. At the meeting held on 19 October, delegations were provided with an outline of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC, highlighting, among other things, a material growth in programme delivery reaching a total of $672.4 million; a greatly reduced level of general-purpose funds (less than 1 per cent of the total income of UNODC), which were the main vehicle for overcoming short-term programmatic shortfalls; a proposal that resources for research and justice functions, previously funded from general-purpose funds, be mobilized separately, while utilizing general-purpose fund reserves; and the completion of the transition to a fully implemented full-cost recovery model. Other information provided by representatives of UNODC included trends and evolution of special-purpose, general-purpose and programme support cost funds and challenges for the future. The timeline for the review and approval of the UNODC budget for the period 2018–2019 was also presented, as well as efficiencies achieved in relation to the regular budget for the period 2018–2019. Delegations expressed concern over the decline in general-purpose funds and the impact that could have on core functions of the Office. The crucial role of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch was noted, and speakers expressed concern at the impact that the lack of general-purpose funding could have on the work and staff of the Branch. The growth of special-purpose funds was seen as an indication of the value that Member States attached to UNODC as an implementing partner. In the view of some speakers, excessive full-cost-recovery rates could negatively affect the ability of UNODC to compete with other organizations.

4. At the meeting, a representative of UNODC also reported on efforts to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly with regard to Goal 16, on justice, and target 3.5 (strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse). An update was given on the implementation of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as a platform for strengthened engagement on drug and crime challenges in West and Central Asia. Delegations expressed concern at the declining donor support in the face of a deteriorating situation with respect to opium production in Afghanistan. Updates were also provided on the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, which was seen as connecting the protection of wildlife with criminal justice, and on the joint global programme on access to controlled substances for medical purposes while preventing diversion and abuse, conducted in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Union for International Cancer Control. A presentation was also made on the Global Programme on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in UNODC and the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), which had the objective of putting in place a UNODC and UNOV institutional framework to achieve gender equality. Among the ongoing and planned activities under that Global Programme were the following: a baseline survey; the development of a Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan; awareness-raising and capacity-building within the Office; gender mainstreaming in the project management cycle; and enhancing gender parity among staff. The working group was also given

an update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit of UNODC, with an emphasis on the results of investing in gender-sensitive evaluations. An overview was provided of UNODC technical assistance in the field of criminal justice responses to terrorism.

5. At the meeting held on 23 November, delegations were updated on the financial situation of UNODC, covering aspects such as the regular budget decision-making process; projections for general-purpose contributions in the period 2016–2019; the general-purpose budget for the period 2018–2019; comparison of initial budgets for special-purpose funds with programme support cost funds; major items in the growth of special-purpose funding in 2017 and the implementation of special-purpose funds as of mid-November 2017; a break-down of the programme support cost budget by Division and by posts, in the period 2018–2019. The key goals of the Secretary-General's management reform were also presented. In replying to the questions and comments made, the Director of the Division for Management clarified the use of the different funding sources. He highlighted the sharp decline in general-purpose funds (unearmarked voluntary contributions) and noted that the projections for general-purpose fund income for the period 2018–2019 were lower than what was foreseen in the current budget. Most income had become earmarked funding over the years. It was further clarified that the internal budget review process included a needs assessment of the requirements of each Division and internal consultations on the principles of balanced budgets, utilization of funds for the intended purposes, maintenance of adequate levels of reserves and compliance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the United Nations, including the Controller's memo that governs the use of programme support cost funds.

6. A representative of UNODC elaborated on the development of the strategic framework for the period 2020–2021, explaining that it was currently on hold until the Secretary-General's reform proposals, including on the length of the budget period (a possible reduction from two years to one year), and that the format of the programme plans would be formally considered by the Member States. If the reform proposals were approved by the General Assembly, the changes would come into effect for the annual budget and the strategic framework for the period 2020–2021 and require a new format which was to be used in the whole United Nations Secretariat. The UNODC representative also provided an update on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review for the period 2016–2020, noting that UNODC, as a member of the United Nations Development Group, was actively participating in this process. The four main areas of reform being pursued under the lead of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General included the development of a system-wide strategic document in line with the 2030 Agenda. Other presentations were made at the meeting, on UNODC support to Member States in mounting an effective response to address HIV among women in prisons and on the gender dimension in criminal justice responses to terrorism. An update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit was also provided.

7. At the meeting held on 4 December, the Director of the Division for Management of UNODC provided explanations on the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2017/13-E/CN.15/2017/15). He also replied to queries by delegations on the consolidated budget, including on the following: the timing for its processing and approval by the Commissions; the use of the different funding sources; the proposed transfer for the research and justice functions of the Office from general-purpose funding to special-purpose funding; and the decline in general-purpose funding over the years. In replying to the questions and comments made, the Director of the Division for Management explained that, in view of the decline in general-purpose funding, the Office had been working on identifying the right funding sources for activities since the period 2012–2013, including the transfer of field office representative functions and deputy representative functions from general-purpose funding to special-purpose funding; moving indirect support functions, such as

co-financing and partnership functions, advocacy and central support for the Divisions' activities, to programme support cost funds. At the current stage, there were not many possibilities left, and the Executive Director had committed himself to ensuring the continuity of the work of UNODC in research and justice, if needed through redeployment of resources as appropriate. Programme support cost funds were earmarked for indirect support to projects.

8. An update on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit was also provided at the meeting, including on the Unit's contribution to the review of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and related capacity-building for national evaluation of progress. The Secretariat also reported on progress towards the achievement of gender parity among the staff in the Office at all levels under four key drivers: recruitment and staff retention, career development, organizational culture, and supporting architecture. Among other achievements, UNODC had met the targets for 2016 for the representation of women in non-senior posts (P-1 to P-4) and senior posts (P-5 to D-2) in the Professional category; supported career coaching, workshops and online courses to foster career advancement for women; and continued efforts to further develop an inclusive culture that promotes diversity and provides staff with a flexible and enabling workplace.

9. A formal meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC was held on 22 January 2018. The meeting was addressed by the Executive Director, who referred to the Office's priorities for 2018. He also provided information on the revisions made to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC, which had been prepared on the basis of requests made by Member States at the reconvened sessions of the Commissions in December 2017. He noted that the Office was proposing to redeploy resources for the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, including general-purpose and programme support costs funds. At the same time, funds had been made available to the Division for Operations to preserve the integrity of the field office network. He also acknowledged the solid projections for special-purpose income, which testified to the continued confidence of donors in the work of the Office and had allowed programme growth in a number of countries and regions. In the face of this growth, UNODC had managed to maintain budget discipline and application of full-cost-recovery principles in the field. General-purpose income projections, however, had dropped to an all-time low level, and more general-purpose funds were needed to maintain strategic direction and oversight, manage potential financial shortfalls and implement improvements. Continued political and financial support was needed from Member States in order to find sustainable resource solutions for the Office. For its part, UNODC intended to further reinforce its accountability framework in line with United Nations system-wide reforms. Among other developments highlighted by the Executive Director was the promotion of equal representation of women at all staff levels, as well as equitable geographical representation. In line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity, UNODC had developed its own Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the period 2018–2021, and an Action Plan to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy was being elaborated. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's participation in the meeting, which testified to the importance that the Office attached to issues of governance and finance. They also welcomed the revised proposed budget, including the proposed amendments to provide for the continuity of services in the research and justice sectors, as well as field operations.

10. The Director of the Division for Management presented a note on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which contained the adjustments requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 60/10 and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 26/5. The note was to be issued for consideration and action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-first session in March 2018 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its

twenty-seventh session in May 2018.[1] Other presentations were made by representatives of the Secretariat, on human resources management at UNODC, on progress in the implementation of UNODC programmes in South-Eastern Europe and Africa, and on the work of the Independent Evaluation Unit. The Secretariat also provided an update on United Nations reform as it pertained to the strategic framework modalities. The meeting agreed, on the basis of previous practice, that the meetings of the working group were to be suspended until June 2018, after the sessions of the Commissions, in order to allow time for the preparation of a new programme of work.

II. Organizational and administrative matters

11. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain) and Moataz Khaled Aly Abdelhady (Egypt), the working group held three informal meetings, on 19 October, 23 November and 4 December 2017, and a formal meeting on 22 January 2018.

12. Informal consultations were held on 5 and 6 December on the draft resolutions for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, contained in annexes VI and VII, respectively, of the report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for UNODC (E/CN.7/2017/12-E/CN.15/2017/14).

13. The Secretariat continued to provide documents and information to the working group by electronic means and in hard copy, including through a web page accessible to the public (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/FINGOV/FINGOV-index.html) and a secure web page for Member States (www.unodc.org/missions/en/wggf/index.html), set up and maintained by the Secretariat for the use of the working group.

III. Action by the Commissions

14. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its reconvened sixtieth session, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its reconvened twenty-sixth session, elected Ignacio Baylina Ruiz (Spain) and Moataz Khaled Aly Abdelhady (Egypt) Co-Chairs of the working group, in accordance with the procedure set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3.

[1] E/CN.7/2018/12-E/CN.15/2018/14.